

# Case study: Hire of PA equipment

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Part of our TSIP brief is to 'provide low-cost access to shared equipment for fundraising and other events'. Use of our PA equipment forms a good case study of how this works.

We have 8 portable PA systems available for groups to hire. These are used at a wide range of events, and there are options to suit different needs.

In the 17 months from the start of TSIP funding to the end of August 2018, our PA equipment has been hired by 125 different groups, for use at 186 different events - an average of 11 a month.

Having access to PA equipment enables groups to organise inclusive events where everyone can hear what is being said. The events where our PA equipment was used during this period included school fairs, community parades, fundraising events, public meetings, street parties and cultural celebrations.

As with all our equipment, we include simple instructions, cables and accessories needed for typical usage at community events, and a checklist of components so that groups can make sure they have everything at the end of their event.

Our current stock of PA systems cost approximately £3,000 to purchase, over a span of ten years. If each group who used one of our PAs in the last 17 months alone had bought their own PA, the combined cost would have been over £45,000.

The type of equipment we have is not available locally from commercial hire companies. The nearest equivalents we could find cost between £40 and £50 for a day's hire, or up to £100 for a week. Thanks to TSIP funding, we are able to provide PA equipment for an affordable hire charge of between £6 and £9.75 for up to a week.

As well as saving groups money the central provision of this equipment has two additional benefits

- ✓ an environmental benefit. Efficiently sharing equipment among groups reduces the overall drain on the world's resources.
- ✓ A health and safety benefit. Our equipment is regularly inspected to check, for example, that it meets PAT (portable appliance testing) standards.

The above details a case study of our PA. It is worth noting that the Resource Centre has more than a hundred different pieces of equipment available to local groups, and similar points could be made about all of them.